

WATER TREATMENT OPERATOR I, II, III, IV
WASTEWATER LAGOON OPERATOR I, II
WASTEWATER TREATMENT OPERATOR I, II, III, IV
WATER DISTRIBUTION OPERATOR I, II, III

Certifying Authority Laurie Sharp
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Legal Authority Code of Iowa 455B

Job Description Control processes and equipment to remove solid materials, chemicals, and organisms from the water or to render them harmless; maintain and operate pumps, pipes, valves, and processing equipment of the treatment facility to move the water or sewage through the various treatment processes; read and interpret meters and gauges to make sure plant equipment and processes are working properly and adjust controls as needed; take samples of the water or sewage and perform chemical and biological laboratory analyses; and, make minor repairs to valves, pumps, and other equipment.

Education & Experience Required Education and experience requirements in Iowa vary according to the four classifications of water/wastewater treatment plants. This classification system is based upon the population of the area served and the methods of treatment utilized. Sample education and experience requirements are as follows:

Grade I High school or GED and one year experience
Grade II High school or GED and three years experience
Grade III Two years post high school education and four years experience
Grade IV Four years post high school education and four years experience with two years of direct responsible charge in a Grade III or IV treatment plant

Experience shall be in the same classification for which the applicant is applying. Substitutions for part of the education and/or experience requirements are available. For details, contact the Department of Natural Resources (DNR), Water Supply at (515) 725-0282.

Continuing Education One continuing education unit (CEU) is required biennially for Grades I and II; two CEUs are required for Grades III and IV.

Examination Written examinations for the different classes of operator are given at various

locations throughout the state during the year. Environmental Services of the Iowa Department of Natural Resources can furnish specific information concerning tests sites.

Fees Application: None
Duration: Two Years (Certificates expire on June 30 of every even-numbered year and must be renewed every two years.)
Renewal: \$60
Exam: \$30
Other: There is a \$60 (maximum) certificate fee. The certificate is prorated twice yearly up to the first renewal period.

SOC Code, Title, & Avg. Hourly Wage 51-8031 – Water and Liquid Waste Treatment Plant and System Operators (\$16.17)

Number of Licenses Issued Total number of licenses active as of December 31,
2002: 6,600 (total of all water/wastewater operators combined)
2001: 4,000 (total of all water/wastewater operators combined)
2000: N/A